GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:572
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
ORDNANCE DEPOTS AROUND RESIDENTIAL AREAS
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have surveyed the location of ordnance depots around which commercial establishments and residential units have been allowed to come up;

(b) if so, the number of depots fall in this category and their locations;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to shift such depots to save the lives and properties of nearby residents; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) to (d): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 572 FO 25.7.2001.

The Government is aware of the location of Ordnance Depots around which encroachments have taken place. However, these have come up without the permission of the Government and are in violation of Indian Works of Defence Act, 1903 which stipulates that restrictions should be imposed on the use of land in the vicinity of any Works of Defence and that such land be kept free from buildings and other obstructions for reasons of security of the establishment.

The Ordnance Corps has 40 main Central and Regional Depots. Encroachments in various degrees, have taken place around all the Depots which are being removed as per law, by the Depot/Station Headquarters concerned with the assistance of civil administration.

Government has not issued any orders for shifting of any Ordnance Depot. The Depots are being sited keeping in view strategic and tactical considerations and thus it would not be viable to shift them to a new location.